



**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Brian M. Satula  
Administrator

Scott Walker  
Governor

**DATE:** February 3, 2012 6:30 p.m.

**TO:** Governor Scott Walker

**FROM:** Brian M. Satula, WEM Administrator

An explosion occurred late this afternoon at a farm co-op southwest of Whitewater on Highway 59 in Rock County. No one was injured in the incident and numerous fire departments provided mutual assistance under the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS).

The incident is under investigation but local officials say the explosion occurred at Cooperative Plus, a farmers cooperative and fuel supplier. Apparently, a driver of a propane truck was connecting the propane truck to the on-site tank when the fire started. A large explosion occurred when the truck became engulfed in flames. The driver was able to escape the flames and was not injured.

Officials say the truck tank had 3,400 gallons of propane on board and it is unknown how much was in the larger supply tank or if it was involved in the explosion. The fire also damaged one nearby building. The Whitewater Fire Department activated the MABAS mutual aid primarily for tank water supplies. The fire is currently under control as crews continue to apply water to the smoldering building.

Authorities have closed Highway 59 in the area and law enforcement is re-routing traffic.

**Wisconsin Emergency Management:** Bureau Director Pat O'Connor responded to the scene to offer support and situational awareness. In addition, WEM's Fire Service Coordinator Keith Tveit provided fire service resource coordination for the mutual aid. WEM will continue to monitor the situation. There has been no request for state assistance.